

Amendments to the Claims:

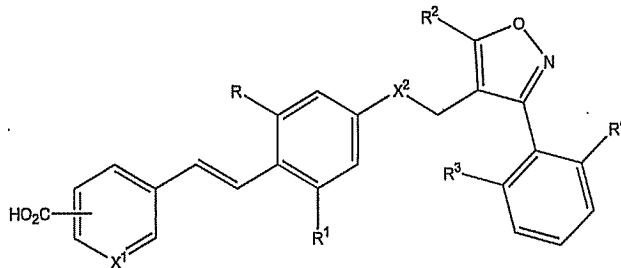
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled.)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing or preventing development of liver fibrosis in a mammalian subject with histopathological fibrotic changes or changes in disease markers consistent with fibrotic disease comprising administering to the a mammalian subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an FXR a Farnesoid X Receptor agonist in an amount effective to reduce or slow the rate of fibrotic changes associated with liver fibrosis;

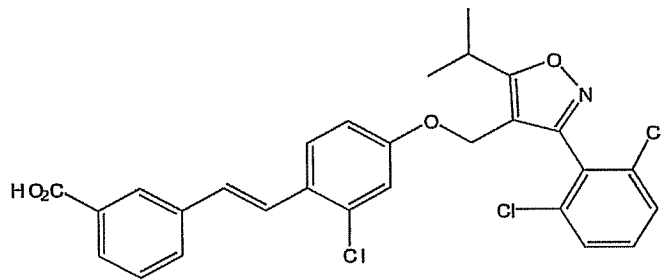
wherein the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist comprises a compound of
Formula (I):



wherein X¹ is CH or N; X² is O or NH; R and R¹ are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, or CF₃; R² is lower alkyl; R³ and R⁴ are independently H, lower alkyl, halogen, CF₃, OH, O-alkyl, or O-polyhaloalkyl.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist comprises a compound of Formula (II):



7. (Canceled.)
8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 where said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is not a naturally occurring bile acid.
9. (Canceled.)
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 where said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is a synthetic small molecule organic compound.
11. (Canceled.)
12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 where a naturally occurring bile acid is administered concurrently with said ~~FXR~~ Farnesoid X Receptor agonist.
13. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein a daily dosage level of the therapeutically effective amount of the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.
14. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein a daily dosage level of the therapeutically effective amount of the Farnesoid X Receptor agonist is from about 30 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg.